

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00515 180752Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10
NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /115 W
-----089652 181925Z /64

R 171430Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0515

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRN, EAID
SUBJ: ASSISTANCE FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

REF: KIGALI 1687
SMITH/JOHNSON MEMO OF JANUARY 16 NOTAL

1. REFERENCED TELEGRAM AND MEMO DEAL WITH POSSIBILITY OF
U.S. PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL TRANSPORT PROJECT WITH THE EC.
REFTEL MENTIONS SEVERAL POSSIBLE ROAD LINKS AND MEMO DISCUSSES
PORT PROJECT ON LAKE TANGANYIKA. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE PROJECTS
DISCUSSED AS BEING OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO ZAMBIA.

2. A PROJECT INVOLVING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF MPULUNGU
ON LAKE TANGANYIKA TOGETHER WITH COMPLETION OF THE UPGRADING OF
THE MPULUNGU TO KASAMA ROAD WHICH TIES IN WITH ZAMBIA'S MAIN
ROAD SYSTEM, HAS SOME POTENTIAL FOR DIRECT BENEFIT TO ZAMBIA.
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE FROM LUAPULA AND NORTHERN PROVINCE OF ZAMBIA
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COULD MOVE VIA THIS NETWORK TO MPULUNGU TO MARKETS IN ZAIRE,
TANZANIA, RWANDA AND BURUNDI. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT
WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH ZAMBIA'S DESIRES TO INCREASE HERE
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, AN INTERGRATED PROJECT TO PROVIDE RWANDA,
BURUNDI AND ZAIRE WITH ADDITIONAL ROUTES TO DAR, COULD HAVE

A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ZAMBIA. ZAMBIA'S ONLY RELIABLE EXISTING ROUTE TO THE SEA IS VIA ROAD AND RAIL TO DAR. CONGESTION AT DAR TOGETHER WITH OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS HAVE RESULTED IN HUGE BACKLOGS OF ZAMBIAN CARGO AT THE PORT. ANY INCREASE IN CARGO THROUGH DAR TO OR FROM RWANDA, BURUNDI OR ZAIRE COULD AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION AND CREATE EVEN MORE DIFFICULTY FOR ZAMBIA.

4. THE ABOVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A PAROCHIAL VIEW ONLY. WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS ARE NOT POTENTIALLY USEFUL BUT ONLY THAT THOSE IN REFTEL AND MEMO ARE OF VERY LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE TO ZAMBIA. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR EMBASSY LUSAKA TO CONSIDER THESE PROJECTS AS PRIORITY FOR ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA.

LOW

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NNN

Message Attributes

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